



Intellectual
Property
Office

Patent Law Harmonisation: Closer Than Ever

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Intellectual Property Office is an operating name of the Patent Office

Four key topics

- Grace period
- Publication of applications
- Treatment of conflicting applications
- Prior user rights



Objectives of the global patent system

The global patent system should:

(i) Be **coherent and balanced**:

- a) Offering a fair level of protection to inventors/applicants from all backgrounds
- b) Providing a fair balance between the rights of inventors/applicants and third parties

(ii) Provide **legal certainty** to inventors/applicants and third parties alike

(iii) Promote **high quality patents** by ensuring that patent protection is provided only to inventions that are new, involve an inventive step and are capable of industrial application

(iv) Support **economic growth**:

- a) Enabling global patent rights to be acquired in an efficient manner
- b) Promoting consistent results in multiple jurisdictions
- c) Promoting innovation and competition



Principles – e.g. grace period

Any system which allows an invention to be patented after disclosure should:

- provide a high level of **legal certainty** for applicants and third parties
- encourage **early filing**
- encourage **research and development**
- be applicable according to **globally harmonised rules**

Workstreams

- Non-prejudicial disclosures / grace period (including relationship with third party rights)
- Conflicting applications
- Prior user rights issues (outside of the grace period)
- Options for implementation



From “closer than ever” to reaching our goal

- Sub-group meeting in May
 - Review workstreams
 - Formulate proposals
- Group B+ meeting in October
 - Decisions on next steps



Thank you

**John Alty
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A decorative graphic in the bottom right corner consisting of three overlapping triangles. The top triangle is a medium blue, the middle one is a darker blue, and the bottom one is the darkest blue. They are arranged in a way that they appear to be stacked or layered, creating a sense of depth and movement.